

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus to maintain a data connection over a public, packet-switched, wireless network. An asset tracking system sends heartbeat signals between a mobile device and an asset server. The heartbeats perform several functions. First, the heartbeats inform the asset server that the mobile device is active and on the network and vice versa. Second, a heartbeat from the mobile device provides the dynamic IP address to the asset server for successive communications. Third, a first heartbeat from a mobile device opens a hole in the firewall of the wireless network. Finally, successive communications maintain the hole in the firewall.